

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1 of the specification, please replace the first paragraph after the title with the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS: This application claims priority to, and the benefit of, U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/409,684 filed, September 10, 2002, entitled "System and Method for Consolidated Storage and Data Protection," and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. This application is also related to: U.S. Patent Application ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~10/659,129 filed September 10, 2003, entitled , "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTEGRATING PRIMARY DATA STORAGE WITH LOCAL AND REMOTE DATA PROTECTION" U.S. Patent Application ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~10/658,978 filed September 10, 2003, entitled " METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ~~TWO-LEVEL-STORAGE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE SECURE, SHARED AND SCALABLE~~-DISTRIBUTED DATA STORAGE AND PROTECTION;" and U.S. Patent Application ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~10/659,128 filed September 10, 2003, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING DATA INTEGRITY OF BACKUP AND DISASTER RECOVERY DATA" each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.